

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1-9 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 5-7 have been amended. New claims 8 and 9 have been added. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,635,968 to Bhaskar et al. Claims 1, 6, and 7 are the independent claims. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent Claims 1 and 6

Independent claims 1 and 6, as amended, recite, “an integrated driving and encoding circuit having a grid-like structure and comprising . . . at least one identifying element of said ink jet printhead, wherein each of said identifying elements . . . is part of the grid-like structure of the driving and encoding circuit.” Bhaskar does not disclose this feature for at least two reasons.

First, Bhaskar does not disclose “an integrated driving and encoding circuit.” Instead, Bhaskar discloses an array circuit 611 and a *separate* identification circuit 615, as shown in Figure 6. The separate array circuit 611 and identification circuit 615 of Bhaskar can result in a

larger overall printhead than is accomplished with the “integrated driving and encoding circuit” of claims 1 and 6.

Second, Bhaskar does not disclose that “each of said identifying elements . . . is part of the grid-like structure of the driving and encoding circuit.” The Office Action aligns the fuses F1-F13 of Bhaskar with the claimed “identifying elements.” However, Bhaskar’s fuses F1-F13 are not part of the array circuit 611 (which includes the actuators), but rather, are part of a *separate* identification circuit 615. (See, e.g., Bhaskar at FIGS. 6 and 19.)

As shown above, Bhaskar does not disclose “an integrated driving and encoding circuit having a grid-like structure and comprising . . . at least one identifying element of said ink jet printhead, wherein each of said identifying elements . . . is part of the grid-like structure of the driving and encoding circuit,” as recited by claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Bhaskar. Claims 2, 3, and 5 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent Claim 7

Claim 7, as amended, recites “an integrated driving and encoding circuit having a grid-like structure . . . being organized into rows and columns that define a plurality of nodes, with the plurality of actuating elements being located at the nodes” and “one or more identifying elements

of said ink jet printhead . . . located at the nodes arranged along a given row or column of said grid-like structure.” Bhaskar does not disclose this feature for at least two reasons.

First, Bhaskar does not disclose “an integrated driving and encoding circuit,” as demonstrated previously with respect to claims 1 and 6.

Second, Bhaskar does not disclose a “plurality of actuating elements being located at the nodes [of said grid-like structure]” and “one or more identifying elements of said ink jet printhead . . . [being] located at the nodes arranged along a given row or column of said grid-like structure,” as recited by claim 7. The Office Action aligns the fuses F1-F13 of Bhaskar with the claimed “identifying elements.” However, the fuses F1-F13 are not located at the nodes of the same grid-like structure as Bhaskar’s actuators. Instead, the fuses F1-F13 are located on the grid structure of the identification circuit 611, and the actuators are located on the grid structure of the *separate* array circuit 611, as shown in Bhaskar’s Figure 6. Therefore, Bhaskar does not disclose a “plurality of actuating elements being located at the nodes [of said grid-like structure]” and “one or more identifying elements of said ink jet printhead . . . [being] located at the nodes arranged along a given row or column of said grid-like structure,” as recited by claim 7.

Claim 7 is patentable over Bhaskar for at least the two reasons shown above.

Dependent Claims 5, 8, and 9

In addition to depending from allowable claims 1, 6, and 7, respectively, dependent claims 5, 8, and 9 are further patentable over Bhaskar for reciting that “the actuating elements occupy positions on the grid-like structure that are located in correspondence with the nozzles used for printing, and the identifying elements occupy positions on the grid-like structure that are located in correspondence with the nozzles not used for printing.” The Office Action apparently relies on column 17, lines 5-23 of Bhaskar for disclosure of this feature, however, nowhere does Bhaskar disclose that the fuses F1-F13 “occupy positions on the grid-like structure that are located in correspondence with the nozzles not used for printing,” as claimed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhaskar in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,506,611 to Ujita et al. Claim 4 depends from claim 1. As demonstrated above, claim 1 is patentable over Bhaskar, and Ujita does not provide the missing disclosure. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4 are both patentable over any reasonable combination of Ujita and Bhaskar.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and

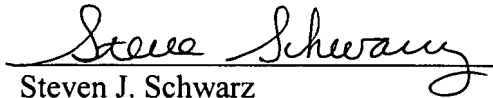
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Appl. No.: 10/538,749

complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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